

THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT APPROACH TO ZEALOUS ADVOCACY

The Youth Advocacy Department
Committee for Public Counsel Services
Roxbury, Massachusetts

February 19, 2010

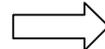


"We're encouraging people to become involved in their own rescue."

YAP Strategies and Goals Logic Box

	PG 1: MDT uses YDA		PG 2: MDT uses ZA	
	<i>Implementation Success</i>	<i>Implementation Failure</i>	<i>Implementation Success</i>	<i>Implementation Failure</i>
<p>OG 1: Best possible legal outcome</p>	<p>By engaging in holistic services between arraignment and disposition, YAP clients are likely to experience progress in one or more PYD areas, such as improved academic performance or enrollment in job training; this progress can be used in court to convince a judge that an overly punitive disposition is not helpful to the child or community because the youth is capable of positive change.</p>	<p>Failing to address the youth's problems holistically may actually lead to an unfavorable legal disposition, as a judge is not likely to give an optimistic second chance to a youth whose life circumstances remain as risky and unbecoming as they were at the time of the crime and who has not demonstrated the ability to make positive change.</p>	<p>By engaging in appropriately creative and aggressive legal defense, including substantial client involvement and contact, the use of motions, and consulting relevant experts, YAP staff are relatively likely to have their clients released at arraignment, charges reduced or dropped, evidence suppressed, trials won, and sentences minimized.</p>	<p>If the MDT uses insufficient legal practices in defending a client, failing to implement aggressive, comprehensive and creative strategies, the client is more likely to be detained pretrial and less likely to have evidence suppressed, charges reduced or dropped, trials won, or incarceration minimized.</p>
<p>OG 2: — best possible life outcome PF, D, A</p>	<p>Due to receiving nurturing adult attention during the pendency of the case, including effective and comprehensive referrals for social services that attend to the non-legal issues in his/her development, the youth experiences PYD and is well situated to continue to experience PYD and thus stands a better chance of sustained life success.</p>	<p>A client is less likely to experience success and thriving in non-legal domains if related issues persist; not only could these ongoing problems predispose the youth to re-offend, recidivating back into the juvenile or adult justice system, but his/her development could be generally compromised in terms of happiness, school success, economic sufficiency, and psychosocial wellbeing. This could be true even if the youth receives a favorable</p>	<p>If use of ZA leads a client to experience legal success, then he/she will be less likely to be incarcerated, thus avoiding harmful disruption of family, school, and community functioning as well as the emotional and psychological problems that may result from incarceration; he/she will also be likely to receive more appropriate terms of probation terms, resulting in less stress and less disruption of family, school, and community functioning, while</p>	<p>If failure to use ZA causes a client not to receive a favorable legal disposition, he/she is more likely to experience incarceration, which disrupts family, school, and community functioning and may cultivate psychological problems. He/she is also likely to receive a long or strict probation, causing the youth's daily functioning to be inhibited by these restrictions, and increasing the possibility that he/she</p>

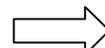
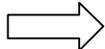
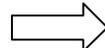
Goal: MDT and client actively engage in preparing and litigating case
Objective 1: Ensure sufficient client involvement in preparing the case.
Objective 2: Make appropriate internal referrals.
Objective 3: Conduct legal and factual investigations.
Objective 4: Conduct assessments in the five PYD domains.
Objective 5: If FCM is involved in case, conduct appropriate psychosocial assessment and/or intensive case management.
Objective 6: If psychologist is involved in case, evaluate mental health status and background.



Goal 1: Engage in zealous legal practice
Objective 1: File motions.
Objective 2: Promote hearings.
Objective 3: Engage in proactive disposition advocacy.



Goal 2: Promote positive development in all five PYD domains
Objective 1: Promote safety in every client.
Objective 2: Promote good physical and mental health for every client.
Objective 3: Ensure that all clients are connected with some opportunity for positive peer and nurturing adult relationships by case closing.
Objective 4: Promote school success in every client.
Objective 5: Promote community engagement in every client.



Goal 1: All Clients achieve best possible legal outcomes.
Goal 2: All clients enjoy improved life outcomes.
While YAP currently has no capacity to measure these outcomes directly, literature will link YAP's outputs to these positive outcomes, suggesting that they are likely to occur.
Goal 3: All clients feel that they were respected, understood, and listened to by their YAP providers; and they genuinely understand their legal process.
This will be measured through a brief interview with client post-disposition.

Value of TRIS

- Enhance team functioning
- Program evaluation
- Cost benefit analysis
- Inform Juvenile Justice conversations
- Provide a platform for future research